Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

32166

50¢

Sisters

by and for Gay Women

SAN FRANCISCO DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS

Statement of Purpose

...a women's organization to aid the Lesbian in discovering her place in society and to educate society to understand and accept her, without prejudice, and ...

1. To encourage and support the Lesbian in her search for her social, economic, personal, interpersonal and vocational identity within society by maintaining and building a library on the themes of homosexuality and women; by providing social functions where she can communicate with others and expand her social world outside the bar scene; and by providing an organized structure through which she can work to change society's limitations upon her lifestyles; by providing a forum for the interchange of ideas and constructive solutions to women's problems.

2. To educate the public to accept and understand the Lesbian as an individual, thereby leading to the breakdown of taboos, prejudices, and limitations on her lifestyle by sponsoring public discussions; by providing individuals as speakers and participants in various forums designed to educate the public; by disseminating educational and rational literature on the Lesbian.

3. To encourage, support and participate in responsible research dealing with homosexuality.

4. To investigate the penal code and to promote changes, in order to provide equitable handling of cases involving homosexuals, with due process of law and without prejudice.

TO SAY AND BELIEVE THAT GAY IS GOOD

SAN FRANCISCO DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, AN AFFILIATE OF

SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN'S CENTERS

P.O. BOX 40247

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94140

Volume V, Number 9
September 1974

BOARD MEMBERS

President	Liane
Vice-President	Millie
Treasurer	Melinda
Speakers' Bureau	Linda B.
Secretary	Paula
Art Coordinator	Laura

Sisters Collective

Melinda Maureen Shari Harvey Leslie

Doris

Stella

Veronica

C O N T E N T S

Unicorns and Guinea Pigs. 3
Book Review 6
Study finds Women's image continues to be Sterotyped. 8
Poetry Section. 9
CALENDAR 16
Congradulations Debra 18
Announcement from Amazon Quarterly. 19
The FIRST Feminist University 20
Constructive Criticism. 22
Local Lesbian News. 28
Information Page 32

* * *

SISTERS magazine © 1974 by Daughters of Bilitis, San Francisco, Reproduction by permission of the San Francisco DOB Board Members.

* * *

Cover thanks to Ms. Debra Resnik, see page 18.

* * *

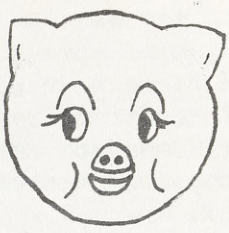
THE DATE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES NOW APPEARS NEXT TO THE LABEL ON THE ENVELOPE YOUR SISTERS ARRIVED IN.

CHECK NOW —

RENEW

EARLY!!!

UNICORNS AND GUINEA PIGS



"In most languages, there is some variation on the metaphor that regards a man in pursuit of a female as a wolf, and the girl as something edible - a swell dish, a chick, or a peach."

Elaine Morgan from The Descent of Woman

When they call me a girl, I correct them. I am a woman. When they call me a chick, I do an hour's lecture on, "If you have the right to call me a chick, (baby chicken), should I then call you a cock (rooster). You should hear the excuses used for this one. One of the most frequently used excuses is: "Yes, I agree with you, but chick doesn't mean that to me. I only use it out of habit. That's how I refer to girls."

Men are called wolves. And they call us chicks. Wolves are predatory animals and they are carnivorous. I repeat, chicks are baby chickens. They are the prey.

People stereotype animals, take their most well known characteristics or perversions, and stamp the animals with a label. Animal perversions are caused by humans. For example: Are rabbits always scared? Are they scared with other rabbits? Or just with human beings? Don't they have reason to be?

Human beings are tagged and referred to by derogatory animal expressions. Suppose animals did the reverse among themselves, and took our most well known characteristics. A human being, among animals, would then mean a mass murderer, a warmonger, a thief, a rapist, one who exploits, or simply anything negative.

I am not scared as a rabbit, timid as a mouse,

silly as a goose, or stubborn as an ass. Even though I might be scared, timid, silly, or stubborn at different times.

Women are called birds, dogs, bitches, (what is the alternative name for a male dog?), old hens (which are useless and sent to slaughter), and cows. Cows are pack animals, sisters. They stick together!

Felines are associated with females. They are thought to be fickle, moody, vindictive. Feline means cat-like, crafty, sly. A "whorehouse" is also known as a cathouse. Dogs are linked with men. A man who is in disfavor is "in the doghouse".

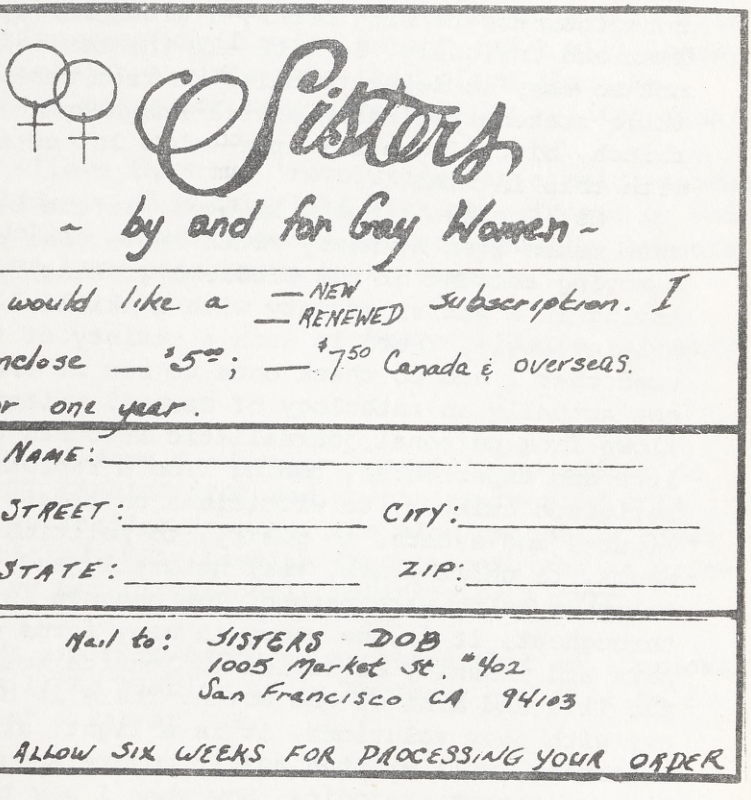
Men use language to their own advantage. They refer to themselves as predators, carnivores, aggressors and destroyers; e.g. tigers, bulls, Chicago Bears. In baseball, the men waiting to play are collectively called the bullpen. Men tag us as helpless child-beings, chicks, kittens. In the song, "Someone To Watch Over Me", George Gershwin gets the prize for chauvinism with the lyric "where is the shepherd for this lonely lamb?".

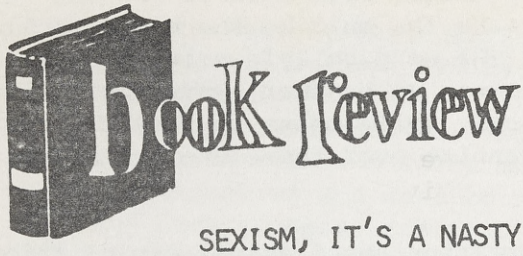
Some examples of words, their origins, and their meanings are the following. To cow, meaning to subdue, frighten, make timid, overawe, was originally influenced by the cow. Coward literally means with tail between the legs. A coward is a person who lacks courage, one easily frightened by something recognized as dangerous, difficult or painful. From cow comes the words cowed, cowing, coward.

The origin of the word bull is bhel. Bhel means to swell up, phallus. From this we get all the bull derivatives, take the bull by the horns, bull-headed, bullpen, etc. The word bully's original meaning was sweetheart, lover, or brother. This was influenced by the bull (ox). Bully means to browbeat, frighten, threaten, tyrannize over those who are smaller and weaker.

For more information about animal exploitation and its relation to feminism, please contact Karen Messer, a vegetarian feminist.

---Lioness Karen Messer


Sisters
~ by and for Gay Women ~
I would like a __NEW __RENEWED subscription. I enclose __$5.00; __$7.50 Canada & overseas. for one year.
NAME:
STREET: CITY:
STATE: ZIP:
Mail to: SISTERS DOB
1005 Market St. #402
San Francisco CA 94103
ALLOW SIX WEEKS FOR PROCESSING YOUR ORDER



SEXISM, IT'S A NASTY AFFAIR
BY JEANNE CORDOVA

Women's movement literature has become profitable big business these days, similar to other types of "movement" literature of a decade ago. The system has always had the means on which to capitalize even its intended destroyers. To make things more difficult there are always the band-wagon-jumper-oners of consciousness raising books, a group multiplying fast and furiously. So with all the confusion, it's not so easy to separate bullshit from real worthwhile statements. Being a well known cynical sonofabitch, bitch I guess I approach a lot of reading with this in mind.

Ms. Cordova's book, however, is one of those that makes even my nasty mouth smile. She presents a moving account of the problems growing up and living in a sexist society with a skillfull, polished writing style. There is such a variety of techniques used that I had to check once to see if the book was not actually an anthology of several writers. She flows from personal journalistic accounts of her life and experiences, coming from a repressive religious culture, to witticisms on todays "pop" figures and events, to poetry, to political statements, to short prose, very naturally and is equally talented using each method. The message is the same throughout, it is one story in many forms of the pain and insanity of sexism in America seen through the life and mind of one woman. There is no battle cry with easy solutions, it is a light, simple statement, well written and it covers about every area of sexist prejudice. Now when I say that Ms. Cordova gets all this across in only 78 pages and

that the book can easily be read in an hour you'll think I'm kidding. I am not. I never kid; I would put my own mother down if she wrote a rotten book.

In addition the graphics alone make the book worthwhile. I have seen very few literary works as well or as effectively illustrated. These were done by several women artists whom Ms. Cordova acknowledg

The one and only piece with which I could not identify was the last chapter, "letter from an exile due to its heavy religious theme and dedication to some mother goddess. (I was never one to lay odds on the sacred or "divine" in life--"gods" and "goddesses" are all the same to us profane.) Not to get into my snit bag, though, I will admit spirituality does appeal to other readers, and it is as well written as the rest of the book. My favorite section was "why I write here," and I will leave people with a quote from that piece since Ms. Cordova makes for more entertaining reading than I.....

"I believe that the 'revolution' is a multi-tendenci myriad-styled battlefield with many fronts on which to make a stand. Beggars are not usually choosers, but we have been known to be sneaky..."

---Maureen Sharon Flannery

Ms. Jeanne Cordova is presently an editor on THE LESBIAN TIDE and co-chairperson of UCLA Gay Studies Program. She also teaches a class titled, "The Lesbian Experience", and is writing her first novel, PORTRAIT OF A DYKE.

We are very happy to announce that Ms. Cordova will be visting us in November and will be doing a rap at DOB.

STUDY FINDS WOMEN'S IMAGE CONTINUES TO BE STEREOTYPED

(Quoting from BRIDGEPORT POST of Wednesday, July 10th, 1974)

CHICAGO (AP) - A Loyola University psychologist says he has found that the women's rights movement has had virtually no effect on the way women are portrayed in magazines and children's books.

Dr. John D. Edwards said he had students survey magazines to find out how many women authors appeared and what they wrote about and to find out how women were portrayed in magazine fiction and children's books.

He said the purpose of the survey was to determine the effect of the women's movement.

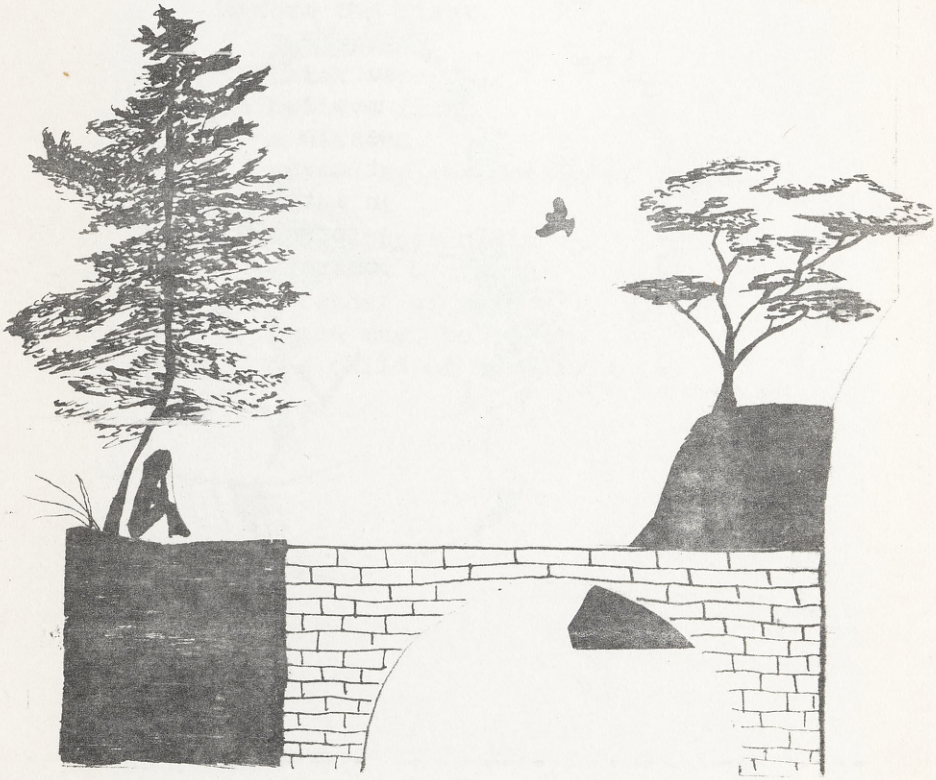
CONCLUSION: "The role of women in certain publications is very narrow and has not changed over time," Edwards said. But he added in an interview that the media reflect what is happening in society and usually lag behind, so that as the position of women changes their image will change.

Contrary to expectations, there was no increase in the percentage of women authors through the period, 1940 to 1970. And the percentage never exceeded one-fifth of the total - "an indication of the extent to which male domination of magazines still exists," he said. It had been expected that there would be a difference in occupational images of women but in fact there was a slight rise in the percentage of housewives portrayed.

Women's magazines showed a very slight rise in working, nonmarried women, while general interest magazines showed a slight decrease. The percentage of women as "occupational models" in books increased. The study found no difference in the average prestige level of jobs held by men and women. In the 1960-64 period, 38% of the women were secretaries or clerks, and in 1968-73 period, 25% were in these categories and 33% nurses.

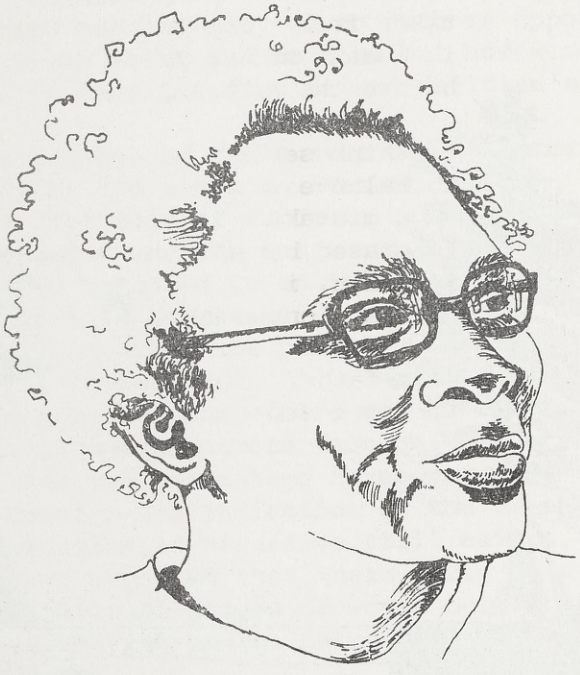
Men were represented in both periods in a variety of jobs.

Poetry



"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man."

Genesis I: 23



from cavities of bones
spun
    from caverns of air
i, woman - bred of man
taken from the womb of sleep;
i, woman that comes
before the first.

to think second
to believe first
   a mistake
   erased by the motion of years.
i, woman, i
 can no longer claim
   a mother of flesh
   a father of marrow
I, Woman must be
   the child of myself.

---Pat Parker

Winter: rain assaulting the window

To Leslie

I watch you
lying rigid in tears
in a small circle of light:
pain distilled to its blind husk.
What ferocity moves this friendship. . .

Acknowledging grief
caught one late afternoon
in light slanting low across the stair,
locked in the lameness of the season,
yielding to the stubbornness of our needs,
we are scarred with understanding.

---R. A. Basile

The Poet

She stands in the glare of the white light,
A woman spent
With only her soul to offer up
as an apology for being.
The poet thumbs through a ragged notebook
with yellow stained fingers,
Coughs as she comes to a choice morsel
and offers it up with a halting voice,

> I ask that you share only a moment
> with me for I'm hungry and in need
> of you my audience
> please feed, my heart
> as I try to feed your soul.

---Ora Williams

I DON'T LIKE ROMANCE

I don't like romance,
        it drains my energy,
or flirtation,
        it teases me to sheer stupidity,
or mystery,
like the waiting game,
        it's a mind-fuck
        and leaves me a dependent,
        babbling idiot.
I don't want to be thrown for a loop,
        or walk on cloud nine
with prince or princess charming.

I want to stand here
in this work-a-day world
and touch your real face
with my ordinary hands.

CAT

Furry friend
curled up against my shoulder,
one gentle paw stretched out
to touch my face;
these gestures of affection
ease my loneliness;
I'm glad you share my life.

---Heather

The Awakening

I held my breath
as I watched Amanda's warm dark beauty,
beauty move and flow with the beat of the music.
I felt a school girl again in the throes of
my first crush
on that gym teacher with the red hair,
instead of a newly-divorced mother
who was telling herself that she was just going
through her man-hating period.
Could this beauty in red velvet slacks
and black silk blouse
be the Miss Haterway of the office
who never smiled or talked to her co-workers?
The one who had no time for women's rap groups
because she found most women boring?

The music stopped
but for me her beauty still filled the room
as she followed her smaller partner
to a table across the room.
The small band started a soft quick beat
as I watched her
nooding her head lightly
in the dim glow of the red light.
Suddenly, I realized how little I knew of being
a woman,
and how much I knew of just being female.
I teetered on the brink of dark despair
as I thought of the world outside
this special little club where I had fled
in loneliness.
Then I turned my back on the dark abyss and faced
into the fierce storm
of fears and emotions that lay naked to my soul,
and with heart in my mouth
I took the longest walk of my life
across that dance floor to ask
Amanda to dance.

---Ora Williams

THE FULL MOON, WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE & BOOKSTORE

at

4416 18th Street near Eureka
San Francisco, Castro Area

CLOSED MONDAYS OPEN DAILY from 4:00pm to 10:00pm

864-9274

SFSI Sexual ignorance is not bliss

SAN FRANCISCO SEX INFORMATION

A Non-Profit Community Phone Service

(415) 665-7300 Phone hours: 3 to 9 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

Septem

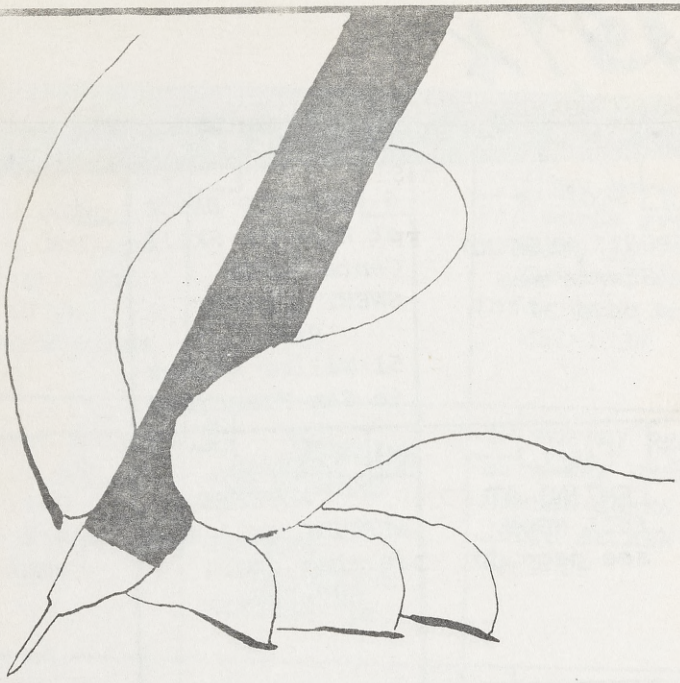
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNE
1 Every Sunday at Full Moon Women's Writers Workshop 4pm with Stephanie Mines		3 Gay Women's Rap meets every Tuesday in Oakland for info. call at 451-1338	4 DOB every fi Wednesday every mo no rap
8 Evel Knievel "King of the Sexists" Snake River Jump	9 DEADLINE FOR SISTERS SISTERS COLLECTIVE MEETING 7pm.	10 POETRY READING with ORA WILLIAMS MARSHA COWEN & JULIE BECKER see page 29	11 COMING RAP at with Jill maybe Paul for new le 7pm
15 S.O.L. Beach Party for further info. see page 30	16 Free Counseling with Jill at DOB come in or call at (415)-861-8689 5 to 7pm	17 DOB office open every Tuesday with Becky & friend 7:30 - 9:30pm	18 DOB'S A ELECTI COME IN TO 7pm FOR FURTHE See Page 3
22 SWEET CHARIOT at Scott's start 9:00pm		24 WILLYCE KIM Poetry at Scott's 8:30pm $1.00 Door charge	25 N.O.W. Meetin Glide 330 Street nea Taylor 7
	30 Free Counseling with Jill at DOB 5-7pm		

IN FOCUS, a lesbian rap gro at 8pm. at 10 Lagauna Stree WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER, mai self-examination, meetings WELFARE COUNSELING, any que stamps, welfare rights, etc Wednesdays for free advice FREE JOB COUNSELING FOR LES

mber 1974

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DOB CLOSED ery first dnesday of ery month no rap	5 SCOTT'S SPORTS WEEKEND Starts see page 29	6 WOMEN'S DANCE at Women's Skill Center with SWEET CHARIOT 9pm 51 Waller Street in San Francisco	
COMING OUT RAP at DOB h Jill and be Paula (?) new lesbians 7pm	12 CAROL LENZINI AT FULL MOON see page 30	13 LESBIAN MOTHERS MEETING call for further info. 647-7075	
DOB'S ANNUAL ELECTIONS E IN TO VOTE 7pm FURTHER INFO. Page 31			
N.O.W. Meeting at de 330 Ellis eet near or 7:30pm			

rap group with focus on drinking problems. Meets every Tuesday
a Street, San Francisco. Call Karen or Sue at 567-0526
R, main purpose is to do referrals and to teach women about
etings every Monday at 7:30pm. For further info. call 282-6999
any questions you may have concerning welfare, A.F.D., food
ts, etc. call Dana from 1-5pm. Mondays throu Fridays, Closed
advice or call for an appointment at 621-9553.
FOR LESBIANS, see page 30



CONGRATULATIONSDEBRA

Debra Resnik is this month's winner of our SISTERS CONTEST for submitting her art which is this month's cover. It is a linoleum block print - printed with water based ink on water color paper. A $30.00 reward will be sent to Ms. Resnik.

SISTERS CONTEST will be held <u>just</u> one more time! The deadline is September 8th, 1974. Certain submissions were disqualified because some of you did not follow directions which are repeated on page 32.

AMAZON QUARTERLY IS VERY HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED A $1000 GRANT FOR WRITERS' & ARTISTS' PAYMENTS FROM THE COORDINATING COUNCIL OF LITERARY MAGAZINES. EACH ISSUE WE WILL BE ABLE TO PAY $250 FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MAGAZINE BY WOMEN ARTISTS AND WRITERS. WE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGE WOMEN WHO HAVE NOT PUBLISHED BEFORE TO SEND US YOUR WORK. ALL MANUSCRIPTS & ART WORK MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. PLEASE ALLOW THREE MONTHS FOR ACCEPTANCE OR RETURN.

AMAZON QUARTERLY

BOX 434, WEST SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02144

PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

SAGARIS, FIRST FEMINIST INSTITUTE,

To Open JULY, 1975

SAGARIS, an independent institute for the study of feminist thought, will open in the summer of 1975, in Burlington, Vermont. SAGARIS will function as a think tank and school where feminist political theories can be studied and reexamined, and where women with prior experience in feminism can explore the connections between feminist theory and individual skills and disciplines.

Course offerings at SAGARIS will include political thinking and organizing, feminist anarchism, feminist socialism, and feminist spiritualism. There will also be a basic course in economics and special lectures in women's history. In addition to these offerings, participants may elect one of the following areas: journalism/communication, creative writing/literature, psychology/therapy, or experimental education/childcare, to explore in conjunction with the lecture theory courses. Each day at the institute will begin with body work, of either self-defense or personal centering orientation.

"SAGARIS," according to Samn Stockwell, one of the institute's founders, "will offer a curriculum that goes beyond consciousness raising, and beyond what can be studied in degree-granting institutions. The very existence of SAGARIS will provide a mechanism through which some of the organizational problems of the women's movement can be reexamined and solved."

Besides Ms. Stockwell, founders and members of the Steering Committee include Blanche Boyd, Rita Mae Brown, Jan Corwin, Lynn Corwin, Judy Cohen, Kathryn Kilgore, Sandy Lucas, Ada McAllister, Jane Myers, Joan Peters and Marilyn Webb. All founders are committed activists in the Women's Movement.

Their positions in the world range from waitress/playwright, to college professors, from baby sitters and clerks to novelists and students, from mothers to poets.

In its first summer of operation, SAGARIS will offer two five-week sessions for one hundred twenty students each session. Tuition will include room and board and childcare for children of participants. Contributions to SAGARIS are welcomed. With adequate funding, we can keep tuition low and provide more scholarships.

More information can be obtained from SAGARIS, call this No. (212) 499-2214 or 499-6276 or write to us at

SAGARIS
Box 88
Plainfield, Vermont 05667

SEXISM:

IT'S A NASTY AFFAIR!

"The first FUNNY book about sexism..."
"A radical FEMINIST statement..."

By Jeanne Cordova

LIMITED EDITION—ORDER NOW! $2.00
Send your check or money order to:
NEW WAY BOOKS
6013 Hollywood Blvd.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90028

The following article was originally directed to those whose politics are Socialist. The Sisters Collective feels it has messages important to every one, especially to women in the Movement.

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

by Vicki Doerr & Betty Legion

I feel both excited and scared when I think about the state of the Left in our country right now. I feel hopeful because I see a lot of political people beginning to re-group for study and action. I feel scared because I see a pattern of absolutistic thinking re-occuring that I think contributed to the fragmentation of the Left a few years back. The women's movement and our experience pushed us into some fruitful struggling against our competitive upbringing, but the old ways are hard dying. Correct-lining, snap judgments, and labeling make us lose the exploration of real differences in a haze of rhetoric, personal attack and counterattack. When we're preoccupied with our fear of being labeled, our ability to think critically gets suspended. We end up wasting the collective energy that might be going into a fresh study of American conditions and into organizing. In the vacuum, we end up trying mechanically to adopt a strategy designed by revolutionaries thousands of miles or a hundred years away.

Our purpose in writing this is to add to our understanding of the ways "*how* we do it" can help or hurt *what* we do. Part One is a discussion of *why* we fall into categorical thinking. Part Two analyzes the ways we sometimes defeat ourselves by the process we use. Those who are already familiar with this chamber of horrors may want to skip to Part Three, which is our specific suggestions for ways to think and communicate non-absolutistically.

I. WHY WE FALL INTO CATEGORICAL THINKING

Here are some examples of categorical thinking that I've run into in the last few weeks:

> In a large meeting of leftists, a tall blond man asks a question of the speaker. "That question is irrelevant," the speaker replies. The issue is dropped, the discussion moves along--but at a heavy price. The questioner slumps down in his chair looking visibly upset. A current of tension runs through the room. "Will he say that *my* question is irrelevant?" people ask themselves. "I better keep quiet. It would probably sound dumb anyway."
>
> Dennis, an apolitical friend, told me that he's decided to just stay away from talking with most leftists. "Nobody's going to convince me by letting me know that I'm stupid and they're not" he said.
>
> People in collective no. 1 hear that collective no. 2 said that they "weren't socialist enough." People in collective no. 1 do a lot of upset talking about "the heavies." Everyone recalls incidents that prove that collective no. 2 was never trustworthy anyway. A studious coolness follows. Silence, but no criticism going either way.

As people who are committed to building a cooperative society, why is it that we often relate to each other in such narrow and competitive ways? For one thing, most of us had "right/wrong thinking" drilled into our heads all the while we grew up. In my childhood, it seemed that each time I said or did something that was the least bit different from the norm, someone was around to call me "sick," "bad," "Stupid," or "inappropriate." It became

habitual for me to evaluate myself or other people by calling names. In school the kind of discussion that was valued was really a form of debate. In order to succeed (or even to survive) in these kinds of discussions I learned the lesson that recently appeared in a *Miss Peach* cartoon: "It is not enough just to make points for oneself; one must also take points away from somebody else." I internalized a set of skills for thinking and talking that suit me fine for scrambling and hustling. It is a long, hard process to find non-competitive ways of giving critical feedback.

A second cause I see for trench-warfare style discussions is that what we are talking about is very important to us. Somehow I think that the way to show the strength of my beliefs is to dig myself into my position. When the world is collapsing around my ears, I desparately want to believe that something is true once and for all. Given the isolation of the left, my political line seems like my only refuge. I must protect it at all costs from doubts and questions.

Sometimes I even find myself exaggerating the differences I have with another person. Polarizing discussion becomes a way to prove to myself that I *am* responding courageously to the world situation. I'm convinced that the revolution will be won by my winning the argument--it's as though the revolution would be made by *ideas* alone, rather than by *people* like the one I am talking to. When I'm locked into this "win/lose" mentality, opening myself to hear another person is tantamount to "giving in." It becomes easy to classify anyone who disagrees as The Enemy.

II. WAYS WE DEFEAT OURSELVES

There are several ways in which destructive styles of criticism are self-defeating for the left.

1. Right/wrong thinking prevents us from taking initiatives. To the extent that I believe that I should not take action until I'm 100 per cent sure

that the action is "correct," I am likely to *avoid action*. In my striving for purity, the only safe activities are reading and talking with those who are likely to agree with me. This form of paralysis is aggravated by my fear of being labeled by other leftists who might write me off: "You're wrong..." "You're too liberal...." "You're reactionary...." (even to write this leaflet, Betty and I had to confront our fear of being labeled. "Maybe we could just sign it with our first names," I said to Betty, envisioning the acid comments some people might direct at us. "How about just our initials?" Betty asked.)

I think I've seen a thousand meetings dissolve into aimlessness while everybody strenuously avoids taking any action that might get us called "power-hungry." The "whaddya-wanna-do-kids?" style of leadership is good for protecting ourselves from being labeled, but it isn't so hot for taking care of business.

2. Right/wrong thinking stops criticism. When people know how to give criticism only in a way that is likely to provoke defensiveness and counter-attacks, they are likely to avoid giving or seeking out criticism at all. If a showdown appears to be the only alternative to letting it slide, it's easier to let it slide. Little resentments snowball into bigger resentments, a hairy confrontation occurs, and people have all the more reason to let it slide the next time.

3. Right/wrong thinking also makes it hard to learn from the criticism that *does* go on. If someone tells me I am "domineering," for example, the vagueness of the label makes it difficult for me to know what it is that the person wants me to change. Do they want me to talk less? Do they want me to ask for other people's reactions more? Do they want me to make fewer suggestions, or what?

(continued)

4. Right/wrong thinking impedes critical thinking and creativity. I am sad at how often I have seen this dynamic play itself out in discussions. Marx, or Third World revolutionaries, or the Panthers or some other authority is defined as "Right." Anyone who questions what the authority says is at best "wrong," and at worst "counterrevolutionary." The discussion degenerates into a biblical exegesis, with different sides swapping quotes and impressions. Facts and experiences that don't fit "the line" are ignored. Real differences are obscured in barrages of rhetoric, while new events are jammed into old categories. So much for our ability to respond creatively to changing conditions.

5. Right/wrong thinking defeats our ability to share our beliefs with people who do not already agree with us. I have a very uncomfortable memory of how I opened up a dialogue (?) with my mother on the subject of women's liberation: "So, Mom, what have you done with the last 25 years of your life?" Then we wonder why we're isolated.

6. Right/wrong thinking drives away people who have substantial agreement with socialist politics. One friend, who renounced political activism for a "back-to-the-country/individual-salvation" approach, said, "Look, the Left is as authoritarian as the Catholic Church. I don't *need* anybody telling me how to dress, how to talk, and what to think. If you can stand the correct-lining, more power to you, but I'm not going to subject myself to that."

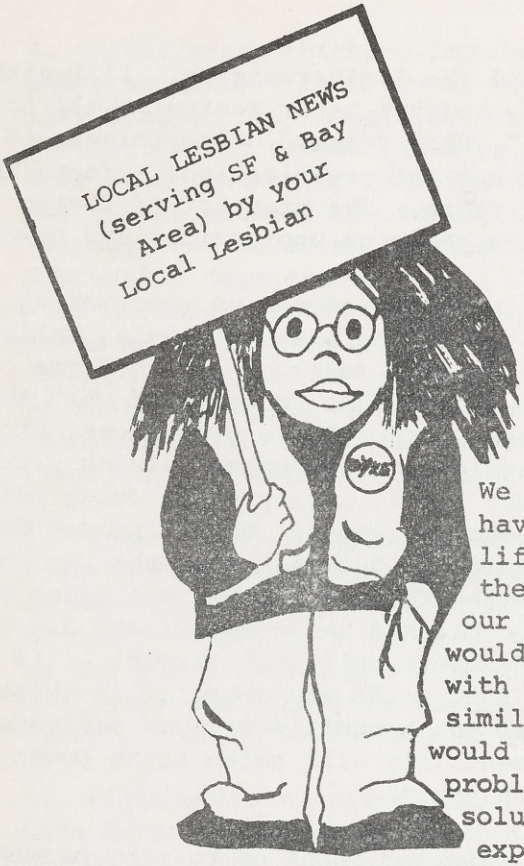
7. Right/wrong thinking keeps people who have nearly identical political viewpoints from working together. Recently, I found myself in the following contradictory position: on the one hand, I was eager to become part of an organization whose politics I agreed with and whose efforts I could get strength from. On the other hand, I had a repugnant fantasy of what the meetings would be like: "There'll

be The Heavies and The Featherweights. I'll either have to prove how heavy I am or resign myself to being invisible." When I asked other friends if they had checked out the organization, I found that they had similar fears. The prospect of facing competitive scenes keeps us unorganized and powerless

8. Right/wrong thinking seduces us into making political decisions on the basis of style, rather than substance. When we judge people in terms of vague categories rather than in terms of what they *do* our class biases, sub-culture prejudices, etc., can creep in unnoticed. I remember talking with a friend about why I felt uneasy about doing political work with another woman. When I penned down the specifics behind my judgment that she was "too liberal," I realized that my opinion was based on the fact that she plucked her eyebrows and did not use some of my favorite political jargon! ("If you don't know what tendencies are emerging in which groupings, and if you haven't developed analysis of which instrumentality will seize state power, I can't work with you.")

9. Right/wrong thinking leads us to view people as static and changeless. Once I have labeled someone as "arrogant," "insensitive," "middle-class," etc., it's easy to slip into thinking that their behavior is the result of an innate character defect, rather than the product of particular circumstances in an ongoing process. As I begin to think of someone as unchangeable and "bad," I lose my ability to have dialogue and to educate. It's called a self-fulfilling prophecy.

To be continued. The October issue of Sisters *will carry Betty Doerr & Vicki Legion's specific suggestions on how to give constructive criticism.*



We are two gay women who have been orphaned in our lifetime; and know that there is a difference in our outlook on life. We would like to get together with other women of a similar background. We would like to discuss our problems and perhaps find solutions. Out of this experience we hope to publish new insights (possibly in article form). If you are interested in forming a group and sharing experiences. Call Germaine at 474-3986 or Joan at 285-4759 or call the Full Moon at 864-9274.

* * *

LESBIAN ESCORT SERVICE, transportation provided with a tour of the lesbian bars in San Francisco as well as Bay Area. Available for gay women only, good for women new to the area or just coming out. Berni's Escort Service (415)-483-5143 Available evenings and weekends for only $10.00 plus expenses.

* * *

This is very local news from your Local Lesbian. In the building where DOB's office is, in the women's washroom on the third floor, in the fourth stall (the one closest to the window), I wrote about three weeks ago on the door, *"Your Local Lesbian Represenative was here."* And someone replied one week later, *"So what! That news doesn't thrill me. It takes a real man to do that. You don't have what it takes."* Then I wrote recently, *"Oh! Yea! And you're not woman enough to love another woman. You don't have what it takes, honey. It takes a real woman. --Your Local Lesbian Again"*

* * *

One of the best bumper stickers (in my opinion) that has come out of the Women's Movement is "WOMEN RUN FOR OFFICE NOT COFFEE" or "WOMEN MAKE POLICY NOT COFFEE". These are some of my favorites but I can understand why they don't sell or display them at the Full Moon.

* * *

SPORTS WEEKEND

at Scott's bar will be a four-day affair beginning Thursday, September 5 with Sports Awards Night, and ending on Sunday the 8th with a fight-to-the-finish $100. invitational pool tournament. Games and sports events will be featured on Friday & Saturday. This gala weekend will mark the end of the baseball season and the on set of the basketball weekend. Softball awards will be given and films shown.

* * *

POETRY READING

atthe Full Moon Ora Williams, Marsha Cowen and Julie Becker at 8:30pm. Sept. 10th, Tuesday with $1.00 door charge. Ora Williams has been doing readingsin the San Francisco area for the last two years and has been recently published in SISTERS. The Local Lesbian recommends highly that you go and hear Ora read her poetry because of her fine delivery and style.

* * *

L.L. NEWS CONTINUED. . .

CAROL LENZINI will again be at the Full Moon on Sept. 12th, starts at 8pm. I urge everyone who hasn't her Carol sing before to go then to hear her. She has played at the Amazon Music Festival. She has her own unique style, it is difficult to classify. Her repertoire is her own creative energy with a few pieces written by pop artist. The women who have heard her are still excited.

* * *

S.O.L. (Slightly Older Lesbians, 30+) BEACH PARTY Starts at 10:30am on Sept. 15th at Natural Bridges State Beach, Santa Cruz. An old fashioned beach party, bring hotdogs, marshmallows, etc, to cook over an open fire. Bring guitars, etc., for a sing-a-long. For further info. call Berni at 483-5143.

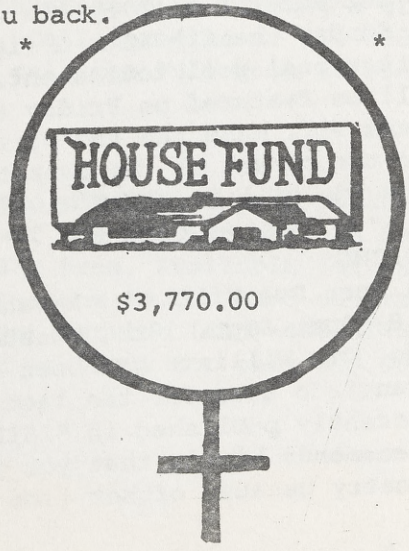
* * *

FREE JOB COUNSELING FOR LESBIANS
at S.I.R. Center, 83 6th Street, Mondays--Fridays 9:30--4:30pm, ask for Elmer Wilhelm, no appointment necessary just drop in and sign in, come in early.

* * *

DOB would like to have another dance, we need at least five women to form a Women's Dance Committee, if you would be interested in helping call DOB to leave your name and phone number and someone will be calling you back.

* *



At the nominating meeting at DOB on Wednesday, Aug. 21st, the following women were nominated for the positions listed:

PRESIDENT: Barbara Collier
VICE-PRESIDENT: Melinda Guyol
TREASURER: Helen Ruvelas
RECORDING SECRETARY: Jill Gribin
CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARIES: Beckie and her friend and Joanne

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT DOB ON Sept. 18th, at 7pm. If you are a member, you may vote by mail, phone or in person, as long as your vote is received by the time votes are counted election night.

* * *

DIGNITY

A national organization for GAY CATHOLICS who love.
Write: DIGNITY, Box 16246, San Francisco, CA 94116

* * *

The TOP THREE Lesbian Bars in San Francisco that the Local Lesbian recommends

1) SCOTT'S. . . 10 Sanchez, near Duboce. .864-9534 because it has a lot of feminist activities, it gives women poets, musicians, politicians, etc. a chance to get exposure and publicity where otherwise women would not get those chances. It's the only bar that has it's own newsletter and calendar of events and it's free to be put on the mailing list.
2) Peg's. . .4737 Geary Blvd.,nr. 12th Ave. .668-5050 because it has excellent brunches every Sunday from 11:00am to 3pm at very reasonable prices. Also, Peg has helped Gay business people get together and has held meetings at her bar. It's a good place to dance on a Friday or Saturday night.
3) Maud's. . .937 Cole St. nr. Carl. .731-6119 because they don't encourage men, they have regular parties once a month including a free meal, less role-playing and good pool playing.

INFORMATION PAGE

SISTERS CONTEST RULES

Graphic must be cover-qulity, an orginal in black & white, within a 4" by 6" space. No photos
Article must be typewritten, double-spaced and at least 3 pages in length. No poems

All submissions must to specifically addressed to SISTERS CONTEST or they will not be included in the contest even thou they may be accepted for SISTERS.

* * *

I am conducting STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL research on gays who have adopted or wished to adopt children; also who have become or wished to become foster parents. Your experiences and/or leads would be very helpful. Please call Karen Lachenauer at (415)--326-5286 or write P.O. Box 2543, Stanford, Calif. 94305. Thank you.

* * *

Dear Sisters;

As all of you know inflation has hit us all hard - especially DOB. Our expenses run about $250. a month with keeping an office, phones, buying paper for SISTERS, ads to be sold to various periodicals, etc. etc.

And what this all means is we need your support especially - financially. Any donations you could send daily, weekly, monthly or once in a blue moon would really help us.

Our address is on the inside back cover or next page.

We would really appreciate any money you could send us at this time.

Thank you,

DOB

DOB CHAPTERS

- *SAN FRANCISCO*
  1005 Market St., #402
  San Francisco, CA 94103
  (415) 861-8689

- *DALLAS*
  P.O. Box 1242
  Dallas, TX 75221
  (214) 742-1947

- *NEW JERSEY*
  P.O. Box 62
  Fanwood, NJ 07023
  (201) 233-3848

- *FORT WORTH*
  P.O. Box 1564
  Ft. Worth, TX 76101
  (817) 924-8598

- *NEW HAMPSHIRE*
  P.O. Box 137
  Northwood, NH 03261
  (Don't say DOB: they must be anonymous.)

- *TAMPA*
  c/o Warner
  Rt. 1, Box 110
  Lithia, FL 33547

- *BOSTON*
  419 Boylston St., #406
  Boxton, MA 02116
  (617) 262-1592

WELCOME TO ANOTHER NEW CHAPTER:

- *New Orleans*
  P.O. Box 52113
  New Orleans, LA 70152

♀ ♀ ♀

MANY THANKS TO CLIFF KROUSE AND NORTH-EAST COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, UNDER WHOSE AUSPICES THIS ISSUE OF THE SISTERS MAGAZINE WAS PRINTED, GRATIS!

♀ ♀ ♀

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN *SISTERS* ARE THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL WRITERS AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE *SISTERS COLLECTIVE* OR THE S.F. DOB BOARD.